

REMARKS

The above-referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action, dated March 7, 2001. Claims 1-11 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tran et al. (hereinafter "Tran") in view of Sato. Claims 27-43 are allowed.

The Examiner has indicated in an Advisory Action, dated June 1, 2001, that amendments to claims 1, 21, and 44 will be entered upon the timely filing of a Notice of Appeal and Appeal Brief with applicable fees. Applicant submits this additional amendment after final rejection to cancel the allowed claims so that they may proceed to issuance in a separately filed patent application without delay.

Claims 1-11 and 21-26 are now pending the above-referenced patent application. Claim 44 will be entered upon the filing of a Notice of Appeal and Appeal Brief, as indicated above.

Claims 13-20 have been withdrawn from consideration due to restriction by the Examiner and will be pursued in a separate continuation patent application. Likewise, claims 27-43 have been allowed and are cancelled so that they may be permitted to issue without delay, also in a separate continuation patent application. No prosecution history estoppel, therefore, applies with respect to the cancellation of any of these claims.

Likewise, claim 12, previously cancelled, has been replaced in the present application as claim 44, and claims 1 and 21 have been amended to remove the limitations that are now present in claim 44. Therefore, no prosecution history estoppel results from the previous cancellation of claim 12.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the Examiner enter the foregoing amendment in addition to the amendments after final rejection previously submitted, so that claims 1-11, 21-26, and 44 are in condition for appeal.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-0967.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:



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